

operate in various details of the children's actual social behaviour.

(5) It is thus clear that when a child enters a larger social group outside the home, the adults there will represent to him not only his real parents as he has come to know them in later stages of development, but also, in times of difficulty or stress, his primitive super-ego, the parent built up within the child's psyche at a primitive level of development, and now projected again. I have shown at various points what relief to inner tension comes to the child through this projection.

It is from this function as projected super-ego¹ that the adult in charge gains his prestige, and his power to control the child and influence him for good or ill. The child will react in this way to any adult, by virtue of his being an adult, whether or not the latter seeks and wishes it. And upon the way in which the adult uses the prestige with which he is invested will depend much of the child's later success or failure in the world.

(6) The ambivalence of feeling which the child experiences towards his real parents in the earlier phases of development will tend to be felt again towards adults in the school and the larger world. In his first years in the nursery school the child of two and three will cling to the grown-ups for safety and for libidinal satisfactions with scarcely less intensity than he does to mother or nurse at home. He will show much the same anxieties when thwarted or denied—as must of course happen from time to time. Aggressive impulses will be stimulated by any frustration of his desires, as, for example, when the adults show themselves not existing solely for him, not preferring him to the exclusion of other children, but devoted to the service of others as well. The fact that they are

devoted to the service of the group *as a whole*
will not at first
mean much to him. It will only seem to him
that they devote
themselves to his rivals. And when they have
to thwart his
particular wishes in any way, for instance, with
regard to food,
caresses, the possession of some object, or
the desire to
dominate over other children, he will at first
feel almost as
lost and deserted as he is in the nursery at
home when the
mother tends the new baby or his elder brothers
and sisters.
(7) In the majority of cases, however, the
child's responses

¹ Not so much the most primitive vengeful super-
ego, as the the good
strict' parent-self, helpful by virtue of strictness.